

Message Text

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EXDIS

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TAGS:PPDC, IN

SUBJECT:PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

, THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED MARCH 27 FROM PRIME MINISTER
DESAI TO PRESIDENT CARTER WAS DELIVERED ON APRIL 3.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WAS GLAD TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 8, 1978,
THROUGH AMBASSADOR GOHEEN. WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED HIM
THAT IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR ME TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON
JUNE 13-14. THE DETAILS OF MY VISIT AND STAY IN U.S.A. ARE
BEING WORKED OUT AND WILL SOON BE SETTLED THROUGH DIPLO-
MATIC CHANNELS.

AMBASSADOR GOHEEN HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ME AND OUR
OFFICIALS AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF OUR NUCLEAR
COOPERATION AND RELATED MATTERS. WHILE WE FAVOR CONTINUING

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THIS DIALOGUE, WE ARE DISTRESSED THAT THE PENDING SHIPMENTS
OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR TARAPUR ARE BEING DELAYED, EVEN
AFTER YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN THE CENTRAL HALL OF PARLIA-
MENT ON 2ND JANUARY 1978. I WONDER IF IT IS REALIZED THAT
POWER BEING SUCH AN IMPORTANT AID TO PRODUCTION, THE WELL-
BEING OF THOUSANDS OF PERSONS IS INVOLVED. IT IS HAPPENING

BECAUSE , IN MY VIEW, MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE BOTH ENDEAVORED TO ESTABLISH HAVE NOT GONE DOWN AS IS OUR MUTUAL DESIRE. I, THEREFORE, HOPE THAT INTERNAL PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS CLEARANCE OF THE NRC WILL COME THROUGH EXPEDITIOUSLY. QUITE UNNECESSARILY, ON THIS ACCOUNT, ADVERSE SENSITIVE PUBLIC OPINION IS BEING AROUSED IN OUR COUNTRY ON THIS QUESTION.

IT IS NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE THE SECURITY PERCEPTIONS AND THE DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE USA OR NATO AS A WHOLE. THE QUESTION HAS ALSO TO BE ASSESSED IN TERMS OF REALIZATION OF THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR AND THE UNIVERSAL YEARNING FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT, IN VIEW OF THAT COMMITMENT AND YEARNING, AT LEAST FURTHER PILE-UP OF THESE OBNOXIOUS WEAPONS WOULD STOP. INSTEAD, YEAR BY YEAR, THE NUMBER, THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY AND SOPHISTICATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS ARE BEING STEADILY INCREASED. THIS IS NOT SERVING THE CAUSE ALL OF US HAVE AT HEART. MY OBJECTION TO ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS LIKE THE NEUTRON BOMB IS BASED PRECISELY ON THE APPREHENSION THAT ANOTHER NEW TWIST TO THE ARMS RACE WOULD BE ADMINISTERED AND FURTHER ACCENTUATION OF COMPETITIVE EFFORTS WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE EVEN MORE AN ALREADY DIFFICULT PROBLEM. I AM, THEREFORE, GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES INVOLVING SUCH WEAPONS,

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AND TRUST THAT APPROPRIATE MUTUAL RESTRAINT CAN BE WORKED OUT AND ACCEPTED. I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT WITH YOUR CHARACTERISTIC DRIVE AND REFRESHING OUTLOOK TO WORLD PROBLEMS, YOU WILL ENSURE A SUSTAINED MOMENTUM TOWARDS EARLY ARMS LIMITATION WITH A VIEW EVENTUALLY TO COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF SUCH WEAPONS.

IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, WE HAVE NOTED THAT SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAVE ANNOUNCED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES FROM THE OGADEN PROVINCE OF ETHIOPIA, AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE STATED THAT ETHIOPIA HAS ASSURED THEM THAT IT HAD NO INTENTION TO CROSS ITS FRONTIERS. THESE ARE PROPITIOUS SIGNS FOR AN EARLY ENFORCEMENT OF PEACE IN THAT REGION. HOWEVER I AGREE THAT ASSURANCE FOR PEACE CAN COME ONLY WHEN FOREIGN MILITARY ELEMENTS ARE WITHDRAWN AND ENDEAVORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SUCCEED IN PERSUADING THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO COOPERATE WITH THE O.A.U. MEDIATION EFFORTS OR AGREE ON ANY OTHER MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MEDIATION TO MOVE TOWARDS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. I APPRECIATE THAT THE SITUATION HAS EASED DUE TO YOUR TIMELY INTERVENTION IN THE MATTER. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE BEEN MAKING ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO HELP THE

PROCESS. RECENTLY, IN REPLY TO THE LETTER OF THE ETHIOPIAN

HEAD OF STATE, OUR PRESIDENT HAS STRESSED THAT THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE SHOULD RESPECT THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE O.A.U. CHARTER AND REACH FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION WHICH RESPECTS ESTABLISHED FRONTIERS. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM AT LENGTH WITH PRESIDENT TITO. AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION, THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC WROTE TO OUR FOREIGN MINISTER. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED MR. MINIC IN HIS EXPLORATORY MISSION TO THE CAPITALS OF SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA AND ASSURED HIM OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN WITH LIKE-MINDED NATIONS TO CONTRIBUTION TO RESTORING PEACE AMONGST THESE TWO NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND BRING STABILITY IN THIS REGION.

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MAY I, IN ANY CASE, EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPEDE THE PROGRESS TOWARDS GENERAL DETENTE AND AGREEMENTS ON THE LIMITATIONS OF STRATEGIC ARMS BETWEEN THE USA AND THE USSR AND TOTAL BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTS AND OTHER COGNATE MATTERS. WHAT IS OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO US IS THE REDUCTION OF FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEA;. I HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE BEFORE LONG TO FINALIZE AN ACCORD ON THAT VERY SENSITIVE PROBLEM.

IT IS GOOD OF YOU TO BE TAKING A KEEN INTEREST IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE BILATERAL ISSUES THAT WE DISCUSSED IN DELHI. I AM HAPPY TO SEE THE ACCELERATED PACE OF EXCHANGES IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF OUR COOPERATION FROM COMMERCIAL TO CULTURAL. WE COULD CERTAINLY REVIEW THESE ACTIVITIES WHEN WE MEET AND GIVE FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT TO THIS HEALTHY AND BENEFICIAL PROCESS.

IN THE MEANTIME THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION HAS WORSENERD. ONLY THE OTHER DAY I RECEIVED A SPECIAL MESSENGER AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL FROM PRESIDENT SADAT AND HAD A FULL EXPLANATION OF HIS EFFORTS TO BRING ROUND ISRAEL AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ASSAD AND TO TALK TO HIM FRANKLY ON THE NEED FOR ARAB UNITY ON THIS VITAL ISSUE. BUT HE HAS HAD TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT ON ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT SECTOR, WHILE I APPRECIATE THE PROVOCATION FOR RETALIATION, I CANNOT JUSTIFY EITHER ITS SCALE OR ITS CONSEQUENCE OF CONTINUED OCCUPATION. IT SEEMS THAT ISRAEL HAS SCANT REGARD FOR WORLD OPINION AND IS DETERMINED TO GO TO ITS OWN WAY IN UTTER DISREGARD AND DEFIANCE OF IT.

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AFTER ALL, IF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS IT HAS TO RETURN ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, HOW IS IT CONCERNED, EXCEPT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF GETTING ASSURANCE OF SECURITY, IF A PART OF THESE TERRITORIES IS GIVEN

BY CONSENT AMONG THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO THE PALESTINIANS? I DO HOPE, NOW THAT MR. BEGIN IS IN TOUCH WITH YOU, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM AND INSTIL SOME RESPECT FOR WORLD OPINION IN ACCORD WITH WHICH YOU HAVE SO ELOQUENTLY SPOKEN IN PUBLIC.

I NEED HARDLY SAY HOW MUCH I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOU AND MRS. CARTER AGAIN. AS I TOLD YOU, I HAVE LONG KNOWN AMERICANS AS A MOST FRIENDLY PEOPLE. I HAVE NO DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT THE VISIT WILL BE A HAPPY EXPERIENCE AND VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN BRING OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER MORE AND MORE TO CONSOLIDATE AND STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS. THIS WOULD BE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENLIGHTENED SOLUTIONS TO WORLD PROBLEMS.

WITH WARM REGARDS TO YOU BOTH,

YOURS SINCERELY,

(MORARJI DESAI)

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JIMMY CARTER,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

END TEXT. VANCE

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